(e) The details about the quantum and type of coal so imported by SAIL and RINL for its steel plants during the last five years are as below:

(in million tonnes/rounded off)

Year	Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)		Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)	
	Low ash coking coal	Hard coking coal	Soft coking coal	US coal
2001-02	6.25	2.43	—	—
2002-03	7.54	2.93	—	—
2003-04	7.18	2.78	0.10	—
2004-05	8.23	2.47	0.28	0.19
2005-06	9.34	2.56	0.25	—

Challenges to SAIL

1325. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL has to face challenges with POSCO and Mittal Steel's interests in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps SAIL is taking to increase its capacity and lowering the cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the imminent entry of international players like POSCO and Mittal into the Indian Steel Industry, competition would be more fierce, specially in light of the global expertise and new technologies that these companies are expected to bring in. Fruther, it is expected that these new plants would further constain the availability of raw material and infrastrcuture.

(c) SAIL has formulated a Corporate Plan-2012 which envisages

building competitiveness for maintaining leadership in the Indian Steel Market. The competitiveness, defined in terms of cost, quality and growth would be achieved by optimum usage of existing assets and addition of new assets/technology. The competitiveness will also be achieved by strategies for sourcing key raw materials. The plan envisages a growth in production to 22.5 MT of Hot Metal with investments of about Rs. 37,000 crores.

To bring down the cost of production, technological interventions like augmenting concast route, 100% Basic Oxygen Furnaces, introduction of auxiliary fuel usage, oxygen enrichment, increase in power generation through JVs etc. are planned to be introduced. Ten new finishing mills with state of art technology are planned to be installed.

SAIL has made extensive plans to improve the quality of products across the value chain and make value added steel, which will help in improving marketability and financial performance. Substantial investments are being planned in this regard. For improvement in quality, specific actions identified in the areas of pre and post treatment of metal, on-line testing and quality control facilities, standardization/ automation/process control and information technology.

Production and Consumption of Steel

1326. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether even though India has huge iron-ore deposits and sufficient quantity of manganese, it has not been able to produce higher quantity of good steel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to encourage consumption of steel in construction of houses and discourage use of wood thus saving valuable forests;

(d) if so, the details thereof: and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?